



Mount Vernon Advisor BoS BRIEF

February 7, 2018

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The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors meeting held on February 6, 2018**. We have included items of particular interest to Mount Vernon residents. For additional information, please go to the County's [Board Agenda and Meeting Schedule section on the County's website](#). You may listen to [highlights from the Board meeting on your computer or listen directly on iTunes](#). [Subscribe to the podcast, or choose a program and listen in.](#)

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR STORCK

At today's Board of Supervisor's (BOS) meeting I am pleased to report the **Board approved an interim agreement with The Alexander Company and Elm Street Development to create a master plan to redevelop the Original Mount Vernon High School**. Over the next nine months, the developers will work with County staff and our community to draft a master plan that creates shared multi-generational, vibrant community spaces with public and private, residential, educational, recreational and non-profit uses, complete with pedestrian connections to the nearby future bus rapid transit station. Our goal for the redevelopment of this innovative community campus is to reflect the unique tapestry of the Fairfax County community; create shared, multi-generational community spaces; and serve as an incubator for non-profits and businesses alike, while being self-sustaining and contributing to the economy of the region.



The **Board recognized February 2018 as African American History Month in Fairfax County**, and recognized the NAACP for its 100th year in Fairfax County. I personally acknowledged both the **Gum Springs Community** and the **Quander Family** as important African American heritage pillars of the Mount Vernon District.

The [Gum Springs Community](#) was originally developed as slave quarters for the Mount Vernon Plantation. Today, it is one of Fairfax County's oldest and most historic communities. Part of the land which now comprises Gum Springs was deeded to a former slave and many smaller lots were sold to other former slaves and their descendants. To this day, Gum Springs remains a cohesive and predominantly black community, with many residents who are direct descendants of the freed slaves who were the original land owners. The Gum Springs Community Center is home to the [Gum Springs Historical Society's Museum and Cultural Center](#).



The [Quander Family](#) is the oldest documented African American family in the Country. The Family has been a core of the Mount Vernon community, most recently selling property to the County to provide additional connectivity to the surrounding community and the Fairchild Property, which is designated for future park land. This supports our mission to create connected, walk-able communities with green space and parks.

The [Board Matter](#) I introduced thanked all who made our **31st Annual Town Meeting** a huge success and the most viewed Town Meeting in the event's history.

Top 3 Things You Need to Know from the BOS Meeting:

1. Approved Original Mount Vernon High School Master Development Plan.
2. Designated February 2018 as African American History Month in Fairfax County and recognized the Gum Springs Community and the Quander Family.
3. Thank you to all who helped make the Mount Vernon Town Meeting a huge success.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

To view the February 6, 2018 Board Package [click here](#).

Admin 1: The Board authorized the advertisement of a public hearing on the proposed [Consolidated Plan One-Year Action Plan for FY 2019](#). **The public hearing will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2018.** The County receives funds from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for **housing and community service needs**. At the hearing, the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed use of funds, as described in the proposed Action Plan. **Citizens may also provide general comments on housing and community service needs** in the County, as well as provide information concerning changes in housing and community service trends that have occurred since the last Board public hearing on the Consolidated Plan for FY 2018 held in 2017. The full item and proposed Action Plan can be read on pages 7 - 101 of the Board Packet.

ACTION ITEMS

Action 1: The Board approved the **First Interim Agreement: Master Development Plan**, between the Board and **The Alexander Company and Elm Street Development** for the [Original Mount Vernon High School \(OMVHS\) Redevelopment](#). Constructed in 1939 and vacated in 2016 at the conclusion of a long-term lease, current planning efforts are focused on both immediate occupancy and long-term redevelopment planning. **Extensive community engagement** is anticipated as we work with the developers to create a vision for the 42-acre OMVHS site that will serve all residents of the Mount Vernon District and enhance Destination Mount Vernon. [Click here](#) to read more.

BOARD MATTERS

1. Thank you to Fairfax County Staff for Participating in the 31st Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting

On February 3, 2018, I hosted the **31st Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting** at Mount Vernon High School. At 7:45 a.m., the doors opened to the Exhibit Hall where 75 Fairfax County agencies, non-profits organizations, and other groups were able to **connect with and answer questions** from Mount Vernon District residents. This year, the town meeting theme was “**Community Engagement – Resolve to Get Involved**”, and the focus was on how we can better connect our residents to each other, to available services and current events in Mount Vernon, and also helping constituents understand the importance of community engagement.

I would like to **thank all the agencies** that were able to attend and who continue to make this tradition so successful. I would also like to thank **Chairman Bulova, County Executive Bryan Hill, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders, Congressman Gerry Connolly, and School Superintendent Dr. Scott Brabrand** for their willingness to join me on Super Bowl Saturday and for providing residents updates on key issues affecting the Mount Vernon District, the County and our nation.

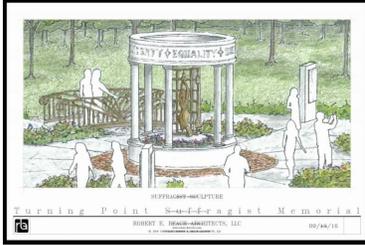
And finally, special thanks to the **Fairfax County Communications Productions** (Cox Cable Channel 16 & Cox HD Channel 1016). With their assistance and through social media, we reached the largest number of residents ever! Thank you to Communications Productions Director Donna Monacci, Producer Sara Mingo, Chief Engineer Greg Smalfelt, Patrick Balsamo, John Graham, Josh Bass, Albee Sinayoko, Steve Adams, Ali Al Taweel, Douglas Zambrano, Larry Aronson, Scott Coo, Bob DeMarco, and Sean Metzger; our tremendous DIT team, Joey Taguding and Mark Leonard; and Matt Miller from GIS. Matt worked with my staff to help us fine tune the virtual boating, driving and flying tour of the District by utilizing the same technology that is available to residents at Virtual Fairfax on the county's website.

The Town Meeting will **replay on Cox cable channel 16 at 8:00 pm** on the following dates: **February 11, February 17, and February 26**. It is also available on the [Channel 16 website](#) and on my [Facebook Page](#). DVD copies are also available at Mount Vernon District libraries.



Joint Board Matter: Economic Development Support Fund for Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

I also joined the entire Board in a joint Board Matter to direct the County



Executive consider use of the County **Economic Development Support Fund** to advance the **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial** to be located in **Occoquan Regional Park**.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, led by volunteers, committed to raising funds to build a **national memorial to honor the five million suffragists who fought for and won a woman's right to vote**. No such memorial exists in our Country today, and only 8% of all memorials in the U.S.

honor women. The mission of the Association is to educate, inspire and empower present and future generations to remain vigilant in the quest for equal rights.

The Association also intends to establish the **Turning Point Institute for middle and high school students**, designed to serve to empower scholars with the confidence they need to become successful leaders and advocates for social justice. Groups such as George Mason University, The League of Women Voters and numerous businesses have already expressed interest in the institute once the memorial is constructed. The Association also intends to develop a **Constitutional Trail** in collaboration with numerous historical sites germane to our Constitution, including the National Archives, Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall and Montpelier.

The Association is actively soliciting funding for the **\$2 million project**. To date, it has received over a half million dollars of in-kind donations and has raised \$250,000. The Association has requested the County provide construction cost funding of \$200,000.

It is anticipated that the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial will have a positive impact on the **County's tourism and hospitality industries**. National organizations representing millions of women have endorsed the Memorial. While the Memorial will be a stand-alone tourist attraction in its own right, its location near other sites such as River View, the Workhouse Arts Center and the Constitution Trail will only enhance the interest among residents and tourists to visit this important historical and cultural area of Fairfax County. It is also anticipated that Occoquan Regional Park will become a destination site for guests, tourists, scholars, students and historians.

Action

Therefore, we move that the Board of Supervisors:

- *Direct the County Executive to prepare an **Initial Project Evaluation** to review this project under the guidelines adopted for the Economic Development Support Fund.*
- *Direct the County Executive to **evaluate the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial's impact to furthering the goals of the Economic Success Strategic Plan** and make recommendations for the Board to consider regarding allocating Economic Development Support Funds to this capital project.*
- *Direct the County Executive that no investment from the Economic Development Support Fund will be made in the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial unless and until the Board has approved the use of the funds for that purpose.*

[Click here](#) to see the full joint Board Matter.

